

The State Board of Education/State Board for Vocational Education held its regular meeting on Thursday, August 16, 2012, in the Cabinet Room of the John G. Townsend Building, Dover, Delaware.

Present were: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Randall L. Hughes, II, Barbara B. Rutt, and Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary and Secretary of Education. Donna R. Johnson, who serves as the State Board's Executive Director, was also present.

Also in attendance were Catherine Hickey, Deputy Attorney General and legal counsel for the State Board of Education; Daniel E. Cruce, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chief of Staff; and Karen Field Rogers, Associate Secretary for Financial Reform and Resource Management.

Attending portions of the meeting in conjunction with agenda items: Charlie Michels, Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Brian Touchette, Wayne Barton, and Alison Kepner, Brian Curtis, Trish Hermance, Campus Community, Stacey Clark, Campus Community, Heidi Greene, Campus Community, Patty Cunningham, Seaford School District; Nancy Mears, Seaford School District, Watasha Rosemond, Milford School District, Don Beers, Kelly Sherretz, IPA, University of Delaware.

Also attending: John Hindman, Deputy Attorney General; Rebecca Taber, Office of the Governor; Deb Stevens, Delaware State Education Association (DSEA); Susan Francis, Delaware School Boards Association (DSBA); Kristin Mullen, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens; G. Scott Reihm, Delaware Association of School Administrators (DASA); Donna Mitchell, Linda Wolfe, Mary Ann Mieczkowski, Christopher Ruszkowski, Patti Sandy, Harrie E. Minnehan, Rachel Matos, IPA, Kathy Murphy, IPA, Patricia Gould, Delaware PTA, Catherine Carr, Marc Cote and John Link.

Call to Order

President Gray presided over the monthly meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. She welcomed all guests to the State Board's monthly public meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The first order of business was approval of the agenda. Dr. Gray stated that no changes were proposed to the agenda. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:	Not Present at Time of Vote:
Dr. Gray	None.	Mrs. Rutt
Mr. Coverdale		
Mr. Heffernan		
Mr. Hughes		

Approval of Minutes

The Board received a copy of the minutes from July's regular meeting prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Hughes to approve the minutes of the State Board regular meeting of July 19, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan. There were not enough affirmative votes for the motion to carry as Mr. Coverdale planned to abstain since he was not present at the meeting.

State Board legal counsel, Catherine Hickey, indicated that the Board could return to this item after an additional Board member arrived.

Formal Public Comment

It was indicated that this was the time the Board set aside for formal public comment. Dr. Gray announced that no individuals signed up to address the State Board.

Committee Reports from State Board Members

Donna Johnson, the State Board's Executive Director, noted several items that were posted for the State Board members on eBoards including an ASCD article on Financial Literacy as well as the NASBE Update on several issues in other states which were also items of interest in our past legislative session. She provided highlights from the Military Child Education Coalition that serves not only students with ties to Dover Air Force Base but students with family members associated with the National Guard and/or Reserves. And lastly, the Board was reminded that Cyber Security Training must be completed before the end of September and a session has been scheduled for September 20th before the Board meeting for those who wish to participate.

President Gray also attended the Military Child Education Coalition and explained that the Board would receive a complete briefing on this at its upcoming retreat. She also participated in the final wrap up conversation of the United Way's education community program held on July 25th. Approximately sixty people were in attendance and the program focused on parent and community engagement. Follow up conversations will be scheduled during this school year.

State Board Committee Assignments

Board members were asked to review the committee listing and confirm their participation on committees as noted and express their willingness to serve on committees that need State Board representation.

Special Recognition

Dr. Gray announced that the State Board would recognize the recipients of the Delaware School Nutrition Association 2012 Awards.

Louise Sublette Award

Nancy R. Mears from Seaford Central Elementary School and Frederick Douglass Elementary School was awarded the regional Louise Sublette Award of Excellence which is considered the highest honor a school nutrition manager can earn for her dedication and work ethic in providing healthy and nutritious meals to students.

Nancy was awarded for her work in Professional Staff Development and Continuing Education. Nancy recognized the importance of staff development and training in the overall integrity of the school nutrition programs. Nancy devised and enacted a plan to increase certification and credentialing levels in her districts by creating a continuing education program called the Lunchtime Learning Series. Not only did this web-based training create increased accessibility to free CEUs by 200%, it also improved the overall education of the staff and increased SNA certified staff by 50%.

Outstanding Director of the Year

Patricia (Patty) Cunningham, Supervisor of Nutrition Services for Seaford School District, was recognized as the regional Outstanding Director of the Year which recognizes the superior accomplishments of school food service directors.

Patty has been a foodservice professional for nearly 30 years. Her outstanding leadership, community activism and dedication to assisting others in improving child nutrition programs earned her this regional recognition. Four of Patty's schools have received the HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Award and Seaford School District was the first district in Delaware to receive the HUSSC award. Patty has been instrumental in developing a state-wide food and paper purchasing cooperative that enables Delaware School Districts to maximize purchasing practices. She oversees Seaford School District's Agricultural Department which provides hydroponically grown vegetables to the Seaford nutrition department. Patty worked hard to get the Elementary Gifted Students' book Fresh Fruits & Veggies Rock published. Patty is actively involved in a health coalition for kids in the community that strives to instill life-long healthy eating habits in children.

Heart of the Program

Watasha Rosemond from Mispillion Elementary School, in the Milford School District received the regional Heart of the Program award for her contribution to preparing and serving appetizing and healthy meals to students. The Heart of the Program Award was created to recognize outstanding school foodservice and nutrition employees who exhibit an extraordinary commitment to the school foodservice program. Watasha's leadership, optimism, and down-to-earth personality are just a few of the many traits that won her this recognition. Working at a new school with all new staff, Watasha was instrumental in creating a cohesive team. She has an excellent report with students and was involved in the production and support of Mispillion Elementary School's video for the USDA My Plate Fruit and Vegetable Challenge working one

on one to help students learn their parts. Watasha also appeared in the video sending strong messages to children about the nutritional value of eating fruits and vegetables.

Dr. Gray presented each recipient with the State Board's Order of Excellence and Mr. Murphy presented the Secretary's Merit Award. Congratulations were extended.

Approval of Minutes

The Board returned to the approval of the minutes and Dr. Gray again noted that the Board received a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the minutes of the State Board regular meeting held on July 19, 2012. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:	Nays:
Dr. Gray	None.
Mr. Heffernan	
Mr. Hughes	
Mrs. Rutt	

Mr. Coverdale abstained as he was not present at the July meeting.

ESEA Flexibility - School Accountability System Changes

Brian Curtis, Education Associate for LEA and School Success Support, provided an overview of the School Accountability System changes as a result of the approved ESEA Flexibility proposal. The Department will now provide differentiated supports at the district and charter School level tailored to the needs of each charter school and district. The district and charter officials will then provide the necessary supports to schools. Also under ESEA Flexibility, schools will no longer receive a rating as in the past (Superior, Commendable, Under School Improvement). Districts and schools will be identified by the level of support they receive which could be minimal, moderate, advanced or intense. Since schools will no longer be labeled "Under School Improvement," corrective action plans will not be required. Mr. Curtis did note that some schools have decided to continue with their plans. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) will be reported but schools will be designated only as "meets" or "does not meet."

The Board was informed that many areas of Title I remain the same with ESEA Flexibility including school wide and targeted assistance requirements, non-improvement related parent involvement requirements, equitable services to private school students, and funding for homeless students. Mr. Curtis commented that with the targeted support and services, the Department will be able to assist schools in the areas of their greatest need.

Mr. Curtis noted that through the ESEA Flexibility schools will receive recognition and reward. There will be one reward for highest performing Title I school and one for highest progress Title I school. Identified as these Reward Schools was Indian River School District's Long Neck

Elementary School as Delaware's 2011-2012 "highest performing" school and Lake Forest District's Lake Forest South Elementary School as Delaware's 2011-2012 "highest progress" school. Each School received an award of \$50,000. Mr. Curtis explained that using the same criteria as Reward Schools, Delaware will annually identify up to fifteen (15) additional schools beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. This is an effort to honor the performance and/or progress of schools that are either Title I or Non-Title I. These schools and their awards will be announced in late fall along with another round of Reward schools based on 2012 assessment data.

The Board was briefed on focus schools. A "Focus school" is a Title I school that has the largest within-school gaps between the highest-achieving subgroup or subgroups and the lowest-achieving subgroup or subgroups, or at the high school level, has the largest within-school gaps in graduation rate, or has a subgroup or subgroups with low achievement, or at a high school level, low graduation rates. The Board was provided with a list of focus schools. These schools will receive targeted support to address their needs. Interventions could include extended time (day, week, year) for students with designated intervention strategies, partnerships with community job-embedded Professional Development, a Leadership Coach and/or a Data Coach. Mr. Curtis also explained the funding and grants that will be available to focus schools.

There was concern expressed by the Board that fewer schools would receive the additional funding than without flexibility. Mr. Curtis explained that with the schools receiving the three year commitment there would be focus on a sustainable change. The districts are receiving the grant for the focus schools in their district and not the schools as before. Mr. Curtis explained what schools must accomplish to exit from being a focus school and noted that the support is more concentrated on moving the lowest performing school.

Dan Cruce, Deputy Secretary of Education and Chief of Staff, stated that this would not affect the Partnership Zone schools which are part of Delaware's Race to the Top plan. The focus school initiative is a new opportunity for schools to receive assistance and services based on their data.

President Gray thanked Mr. Curtis for the overview and stated that a more detailed presentation on ESEA Flexibility would be presented at the evening meeting with board members from local districts and charter as well as educational stakeholders.

DCAS Update

Brian Touchette, Education Associate for Alternate Assessment, began his presentation by providing the State Board with two short video clips that demonstrated how the DCAS Alternate Assessment is administered. This was in response to the Board's request for such additional information last month. He also provided an overview of the summary results of the DCAS-Alt 1 reading and mathematics assessments and provided information on the confirmation standard setting for reading and mathematics and the proposed standard setting for science and social studies. The DCAS-Alt 1 assessment is administered in Reading, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies and there are three grade band extensions for each standard. Some standards were excluded due to the level of complexity for this population. Examples were provided using a

standard from Science and Social Studies and the Board was provided with the extensions that show the range of skills. Mr. Touchette commented that the standard setting workshop took place on July 9th and 10th and was conducted by the American Institutes for Research (AIR) and data from the spring 2012 DCAS – Alt1 were used to inform the standard setting process. There were 34 panelists representing a mix of special education teachers, general education teachers, parents, community members and higher education staff. Standards were recommended in: Science, grades 5, 8, and 10 and Social Studies, graded 4, 7, and 9. Panelists were informed that the performance standards on the DCAS-Alt1 needed to be as challenging for this population as the standards on the DCAS are for the general population of students. Mr. Touchette also explained that a small group of the panelists from the previous 2011 standard setting workshop were asked to take a second look at the DCAS-Alt1 Reading and Mathematics standards. The data was reviewed that showed how the students performed in the 2011 field test versus the 2012 operational test. After reviewing all the test items and data both the Reading and the Mathematics the panelists recommended that the DCAS-Alt1 standards not be changed which confirms that the standards established based on 2011 field test data are still reasonable after reviewing how students performed on the 2012 operational test. Dr. Gray asked about the role of parents and the community. Mr. Touchette stated that the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens provided feedback, the parent voice and bring rigor and a level of enthusiasm to the process.

Ms. Johnson explained that the State Board also received a copy of the revised assessment calendar.

The Board recessed from 2:50 p.m. to 3:02 p.m.

Delaware Teacher and Administrator Supply and Demand Survey Analysis Report (July 2012)

Christopher Ruszkowski, Chief Officer of the Teacher Leader Effectiveness Unit, introduced Kelly Sherretz, Associate Policy Scientist with the Institute for Public Administration at the University of Delaware. She presented an overview of the Delaware Teacher and Administrator Supply and Demand Survey Analysis Report (July 2012). This is the ninth year the Department has contracted with the University of Delaware for the report. The report is based on a survey of all 19 school district personnel directors and responses were received from 14 of the 22 charter schools. The report also is an analysis of data from the Delaware payroll system and Delaware Educators Data System (DEEDS). The findings of the report indicated that the late hiring of teachers in the month of August has declined but a lack of qualified candidates was a major problem for both districts and charters. The most critical areas were noted as high school math and science. As in the past, the major non-teacher hiring problem was for speech therapists.

For administrator hiring, personnel directors reported hiring 41 new assistant principals and 18 principals, 83.1% of whom came from within the state. There were 17 administrators that participated in a school district succession-planning program and 13 districts indicated that they have their own program to prepare and develop administrators. Ms. Sherretz also stated that 8 districts stated that they have a program to support new principals during the induction stage.

Other findings of the report included the need for foreign language teachers and special-education teachers which has increased. The University of Delaware was mentioned most frequently for providing the best prepared teachers for districts in both elementary and secondary education. Among the 980 teachers who left teaching, 147 exited within the first year and 70 teachers left within the first two years. Charter Schools had fewer unfilled positions than school districts but view low salaries and lack of qualified applicants as their major recruitment obstacles. Charter schools also rely on the Teach Delaware website, print advertisement, and Teach for America Program for recruitment.

Ms. Sherretz acknowledged the other primary researchers for the study: Nathan A. Roby and Rachel A. Matos.

The Board asked if trends in Delaware are similar to neighboring states. Dr. Wayne Barton, Director, Teacher and Administrator Quality, responded that neighboring states have similar trends. He also commented that districts were very pleased in the increase in the number of math majors seeking employment. Dr. Barton explained that the survey is used to address shortage areas.

Mr. Ruszkowski stated that although the survey is self reporting, the personnel directors take it very serious and know the information is beneficial in making changes. He also thanked Dr. Barton who was attending his last State Board meeting for his many years of service. Dr. Barton will be retiring the end of the month.

Delaware Performance Appraisal System Second Edition (DPAS II) (June 2012) Year 5 Report

Mr. Ruszkowski introduced Donald Beers from Progress Education Corporation. Dr. Beers provided an overview of the annual evaluation of DPAS II and presented the results of the June 2012 report. This evaluation, conducted since 2006, provides the Department of Education with an analysis of the teacher, administrator, and specialist evaluation system plus recommendations for improvement. The evaluation is based on surveys of all teachers, administrators, and specialists; in-person interviews with randomly selected respondents; and 6 focus groups. Dr. Beers provided an overview of the evaluation since it started in 2006 and the leading recommendations from each year. The 2012 findings showed that DPAS II was given a grade of "B" which is consistent with the last three years. Teachers believe the best indicator for an evaluation is "instruction" and all believe the discussions that follow are valuable. It was noted that there is still some duplication with the forms but the forms are not difficult. Dr. Beers provided an overview of the suggestions received from teachers, specialists and administrators.

Secretary's Report, Review and Discussion

Secretary Murphy provided an update on DPAS II Component 5 and the communications that have been distributed to educators on this initiative. Teachers received an email on May 30th and a follow up email was sent the end of July that was on an overview of the new policy. DPAS II Component 5 training sessions are scheduled for September and each school is asked to

send at least one staff member to a training session. Mr. Murphy noted that this is an important junction as the policy development must be fair and transparent.

The Board also received an update on the Common Core Committee which has refocused its efforts. A Common Core website has been launched and over the next few years the state assessment will become more rigorous as it aligns to Common Core standards. This spring additional questions will be included as part of DCAS that are common core aligned and will include a few extended response questions.

Department of Education Regulations

Dr. Susan Haberstroh, Education Associate for Regulation Review, presented the Department regulations on the State Board agenda.

930 Supportive Instruction (Homebound) (For Discussion)

The Secretary of Education intends to amend 14 DE Admin. Code 930 Supportive Instruction (Homebound) in response to legislative action as well as other changes that have been brought forward through this review of the regulation. Legislation from the 146th General Assembly codified a requirement that Department of Education regulation define eligibility for supportive instruction for school district and charter school students; identify the licensed professional authorized to certify eligibility. Additionally, an amendment was made to address identification of those areas for supportive instruction that are not a result of sudden illness, injury, accident, episodic flare up of a chronic condition.

Dr. Haberstroh indicated that comments had been received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens. The amendment is out for comment and will be presented for action to the State Board next month unless the comment period is for sixty days.

Professional Standards Board

Charlie Michels, Executive Director of the Professional Standards Board (PSB) presented the PSB item on the agenda.

1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (For Action)

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, is seeking the consent of the State Board of Education to amend regulation DE Admin. Code 1570 Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. It is necessary to amend this regulation in order to facilitate proper and current formatting trends. There are no changes in certification requirements other than clarifying the requirements for those educators who seek this certification as their first Standard Certificate and those adding this Standard Certificate to one or more previously issued on their license. This regulation sets forth the requirements for an Early Childhood Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher.

Comments were received from the Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens and the State Council for Persons with Disabilities.

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the amended regulation 14 Delaware Administrative Code 1570 Early Childhood Exceptional Children Special Education Teacher as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried unanimously with the following vote recorded:

Ayes:

Nays:

Dr. Gray
Mr. Coverdale
Mr. Heffernan
Mr. Hughes
Mrs. Rutt

None.

The Board signed the appropriate Order.

Charter Performance Framework - Progress Update

Ms. Johnson and Mr. Cruce updated the State Board on the final development work around the Charter School Performance Frameworks and Performance Agreement. Revisions that have been made to the three sections of the frameworks were noted with the organizational framework receiving the most feedback from the stakeholders. The academic framework had changes to the growth objectives in order to incorporate a growth measure using the instructional scale score and provide discrete targets for those measures and the growth to proficiency measure. Draft copies of the frameworks were made available to Board members for their review prior to the Board meeting. A September release is scheduled for the frameworks to be finalized.

Dr. Gray acknowledged that this was Mr. Cruce's final State Board meeting and wished him well in his new position at the Hope Street Group.

Presentation by Campus Community Charter School

Staff from Campus Community School made a presentation to the State Board as a follow up to the school's renewal in 2011 and modification in 2012. The presentation was to update the State Board on the conditions that were placed on the school as well as the school's progress. Trish Hermance, head of Campus Community School, led the presentation along with Stacey Clark and Heidi Greene.

Ms. Hermance provided the school's mission statement as well as information on what makes Campus Community unique. The school faculty consists of 55 total staff members, 41 being teachers or instructional support. She commented that 92.5% of the classes are taught by highly qualified teachers. Parents of the school's students and the community also offer a strong support base. It was noted the school's demographics have changed significantly over the years with more minority students and students from low income families in attendance.

Areas the school has addressed include addressing the growing needs of their students/families, providing additional support to curriculum development and alignment to Common Core and DCAS. There was focus on the mathematics curriculum, instruction and assessment and an increased teacher focus on data collection, analysis and application which allowed for more frequent and effective adjustments to instruction.

Ms. Hermance provided data on the students' DCAS scores and indicated that after significant efforts in the last year and a half, standardized test achievement is improving and the majority of students that begin at Campus in 1st grade outperform their peers and perform as well or better than state average.

The Board was provided with an update on the school's progress to the conditions as part of their renewal which addressed human capital, curriculum revision and refinement, formative assessment and culture and climate. The school's modification closed the high school and opened a Kindergarten.

The Board inquired about the school's Academic Watch status from not meeting its AYP targets and the school responded that it did not meet its participation target. There was also discussion on the school's constructive classroom approach to teaching which is a unique style of teaching. Ms. Hermance commented that the school looks forward to future conversations with the Board and updates. Discussion also involved the need for the school to revise their performance agreement based upon their grade reconfiguration and the school noted that they looked forward to the opportunity to do that using the new performance frameworks as a guide.

Charter Schools Update

Mr. Cruce provided an update to the State Board on Pencader High School of Business and Finance. It explained that at the time of the meeting the school is not in violation of its charter although there are issues with the school's governance and leadership. He noted that the enrollment is still below the school's approved number of students but the school was asked to prepare a budget based on those figures as a proactive measure. Mr. Cruce stated that as far as the school's governance Mr. Carwell from the Charter Office attends the school's board meetings and has met with the new Board members. A legal FOIA issue has been brought up and a decision on that issue will be forthcoming from the Attorney General's office. The Board expressed their concerns and noted that the students should be the main focus. The Board asked to remain in communication with the Department regarding any changes in the school's performance or compliance with probationary conditions. The department agreed to provide an update at the Board's next meeting and to remain in contact regarding any changes that may arise in the interim.

The Board also received an update on Reach Academy and its conditions as part of its Board agenda.

Information Items

The information items on the agenda were noted.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hughes and carried unanimously by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education

An audio of the entire meeting is available on the State Board's website at: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/ddoe/sbe/default.shtml>